

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/820,673

Examiner

Eleni A. Shiferaw

Applicant(s)

ALKOVE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/30/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

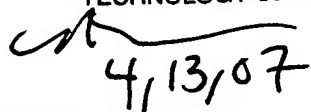
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/12/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100


4/13/07

DETAILED ACTION

1. A telephone interview was made with Bryan T. Giles on April 13, 2007 to incorporate parts of applicant's disclosure in the claims to particularly point out the applicant's invention. Based on the interview, Examiner's amendment has been made for independent claims 1 and 12, and dependent claims 2-11 and 23 are also amended to comply with amendments made in the independent claims.

Response to Amendments/Arguments

2. The examiner accepts the terminal disclaimer filed on 03/30/2007 and withdraws an obviousness double patenting rejection previously made.
3. Appellant's amendments and arguments filed on 03/21/2007 are persuasive.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Bryan T. Giles on April 13, 2007.

3. Claims 1-12 and 23 are amended as follows.

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1. (Currently amended) A common computing device having instantiated thereon a protected media path for delivering encrypted content from a plurality of content delivery sources to a plurality of sinks, the protected media path comprising:

a media base providing a protected environment in the common computing device and including a common infrastructure of core components effectuating processing of the content from a first source of the plurality of content delivery sources and delivering the processed content to a first sink of the plurality of sinks, and also including a policy engine enforcing policy on behalf of the first source, the policy corresponding to the content from the first source and including rules and requirements for accessing and rendering the content, whereby the media base allows content to flow through the common computing device in a protected fashion, and allows for arbitrary processing of the protected content in the common computing device;

a source trust authority (SOTA) in the common computing device and associated with and corresponding to the first source of the content, the SOTA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the first source to the media base and representing the first source in the protected media path, decrypting the content from the first source, translating policy associated with the content from a native format of the first source into a format amenable to the policy engine, propagating the translated policy to the policy engine, and releasing the decrypted content to the media base; and

a sink trust authority (SITA) in the common computing device and associated with and corresponding to the first sink of content, the SITA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the first sink to the media base and representing the first sink in the protected media path, re-

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encrypting the decrypted content released by the SOTA, receiving the translated policy from the policy engine, and re-translating the translated policy from the format of the policy engine into a format amenable to the first sink, whereby the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy are delivered to the first sink, and whereby the first sink receives the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy, decrypts the received content, and renders same based on the received policy.

2. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 1 wherein the media base of the instantiated protected media path further includes at least one supplemental component providing additional protected functionality to the common computing device.

3. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 1 further having instantiated thereon a media application selecting the content to be delivered, selecting the first source for providing the content by way of the protected media path, if necessary selecting the first sink to receive the provided content by way of the protected media path, actuating the media base to arrange the protected media path according to the selected first source and the selected first sink.

4. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 3 wherein the media application provides delivery commands to the media base to control delivery of the content from the selected first source to the selected first sink.

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5. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 3 wherein the media base prevents the media application from having access to the content delivered within the protected media path.
6. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 3 wherein the media base prevents the media application from taking any action with respect to the content contrary to the policy corresponding to the content.
7. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim I wherein the SOTA of the instantiated protected media path allows content thereof to be delivered through the protected media path only if the SOTA is satisfied that the media base, the policy engine thereof, each employed component thereof, and the SITA of the protected media path is trustworthy and has rights to be in contact with the content based on the policy corresponding thereto.
8. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 7 wherein any element can be shown to be trustworthy based on a proffer of an acceptable token that vouches for the element.
9. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 8 wherein any element can be shown to be trustworthy based on a proffer of a verifiable digital certificate from an acceptable vouching authority.

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10. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 8 wherein a trustworthy element is trusted to decide whether same can be in contact with the content based on the policy corresponding thereto and based on whether same can honor the policy corresponding to the content.

11. (Currently amended) The common computing device of claim 8 wherein a trustworthy element is trusted to respond truthfully to a rights-based query from another element.

12. (Currently amended) A method of delivering encrypted content from a plurality of content delivery sources to a plurality of sinks by way of a common computing device, the method comprising:

an application on the common computing device calling to a media base on the common computing device with a definition of the content from a first source of the plurality of content delivery sources, the first source, and ~~the~~ a first sink of the plurality of sinks;

the media base including a policy engine that enforces policy on behalf of the first source, the policy corresponding to the content from the first source and including rules and requirements for accessing and rendering the content, and establishing a protected media path based on the defined content, the first source, and the first sink to effectuate such delivery, the established protected media path including:

the media base;

a source trust authority (SOTA) on the common computing device and associated with and corresponding to the first source, the SOTA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the first

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source to the media base and representing the first source in the protected media path, decrypting the content from the first source, translating policy associated with the content from a native format of the first source into a format amenable to the policy engine, propagating the translated policy to the policy engine, and releasing the decrypted content to the media base; and

a sink trust authority (SITA) on the common computing device and associated with and corresponding to the first sink, the SITA acting as a secure lockbox connecting the first sink to the media base and representing the first sink in the protected media path, re-encrypting the decrypted content released by the SOTA, receiving the translated policy from the policy engine, and re-translating the translated policy from the format of the policy engine into a format amenable to the first sink, whereby the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy are delivered to the first sink, and whereby the first sink receives the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy, decrypts the received content, and renders same based on the received policy;

the SOTA on behalf of the first source establishing trust with respect to the protected media path;

the SOTA upon trust being established with respect to the protected media path propagating the translated policy corresponding to the content to be delivered to the protected media path;

the SOTA determining a particular type of action to be taken with the content as delivered through the protected media path;

the SOTA deciding whether the particular type of action can be taken with the content as delivered through the protected media path and informing the media base regarding same;

the media base informing the application whether the particular type of action can be taken, and if so the application proceeding by commanding the media base to perform such type of action.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

the SOTA obtaining the encrypted content from the first source;
the media base processing the decrypted content as necessary and delivering the processed decrypted content to the SITA; and
the SITA encrypting the processed decrypted content and delivering the encrypted processed content to the first sink.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-23 are allowed.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Applicant's arguments were persuasive. Applied reference Candelore discloses a system that enables a digital content provider to supply content to customers under multiple digital rights management (DRM) schemes but none of prior art of record neither alone nor in combination teach the a common computing device for multiple content delivery sources and sinks comprising a source trust authority (SOTA) that decrypts the content from the source, translates policy associated with the content from a native format of the source into a format amenable to the policy engine, propagates the translated policy to the policy engine, releases the decrypted content to the media base; and a sink trust authority (SITA) that corresponds to a sink of content,

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the SITA re-encrypts the decrypted content released by the SOTA, receives the translated policy from the policy engine, and re-translates the translated policy from the format of the policy engine into a format amenable to the sink, whereby the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy are delivered to the sink, and whereby the sink receives the re-encrypted content and the re-translated policy, decrypts the received content, and renders same based on the received policy.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eleni A. Shiferaw whose telephone number is 571-272-3867. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser R. Moazzami can be reached on (571) 272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



April 13, 2007

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4,13,07